Visit of WTO Chief to New Delhi

1053. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Trade Organization Chief Mr. Mike Moore had paid visit to New Delhi in January this year;

(b) if so, what was the purpose of his visit; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. Mr. Mike Moore, Director General, World Trade Organisation (DG, WTO), on his visit to New Delhi during January, 2000 to attend the Partnership Summit-2000 organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry, took the opportunity to make a courtesy call on the Prime Minister and hold discussions with the concerned Ministers of the Government. The purpose of his visit appeared to be to get a feel as to whether India is willing for an early resumption of the Ministerial Conference and whether there is a likelihood of arriving at a broad consensus and convergence of views on the agenda items.

(c) It was conveyed to the DG, WTO that there was no point in rushing into another Ministerial Meeting of WTO unless there is a broad consensus among the Members, and that such a broad consensus could be arrived at if non-trade related issues are removed from the agenda and if there are reliable indications that the concerns of India and the developing countries regarding implementation of existing WTO Agreements would be redressed expeditiously. India's commitment to continue with the mandated negotiations and mandated reviews was also conveyed to the DG, WTO.

Reforms sought by India in the WTO

1054. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has sought reforms in the WTO regime;

(b) if so, what are the details indicating the precise object sought to be achieved thereby;

(c) the moves made and the steps taken to secure such reforms; and

(d) what trade preferences enjoyed by developing countries under the CATT are being denied or diluted under the WTO regime?